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EXAMINER

LOFTIN, CELESTE

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2617

DATE MAILED: 09/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/530,309	Applicant(s) BAKRI, BAN AL	
	Examiner Celeste L. Loftin	Art Unit 2617	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 6/14/06.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Response to Amendment

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-25 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claim 1, 9-11, 18 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jagadeesan, **US Patent 7,003,298**, in view of Noguera-Rodriguez et al. (Rodriguez), **US Patent 6,687,249**.

Regarding claim 1, Jagadeesan discloses a method of handing over a plurality of connections of a subscriber unit from a first cellular communication system supporting the plurality of connections of the subscriber unit to a second cellular communication system having capability for supporting only one connection, the method comprising

entering at least a first connection of said plurality of connections into a holding state (the signal to begin handoff is transmitted over the original leg (first connection) and a telephone call is made to establish connection, it is inherent to one skilled in the art that this would pause the original transmissions) (**col. 7 lines 35-45**);
forming a handover connection to the subscriber unit through the second cellular

communication system (a handoff call is made to the access address, the handoff call is made responsive to the receiving the address signal) (col. 7 lines 55-65);

handing over a second connection of said plurality of connections to the second cellular communication system by associating the second connection with said handover connection (the alternate leg of the telephone call connection is established from the handoff the alternate leg is coupled with the voice channel (a second connection)) (col. 7 lines 60-67);

entering said at least first connection into an active state by switching the at least first connection with the handover connection while placing the previously active second connection on hold (it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that this step can be performed if the previous step of “entering at least a first connection of said plurality of connections into a holding state” and “handing over the second connection by associating the second connection with said handover connection”, and thus this step of entering is just the reverse which is obvious during the operation of handing over.

Jagadeensan fails to disclose forwarding all connections directly from the first communication system to the second system and entering at least a first connection of said plurality of connections into a holding state being directed by the second communication system.

In a similar field of endeavor, Rodriguez discloses forwarding all connections directly from the first communication system to the second communication system and entering at least a first connection of said plurality of connections into a holding state being directed by the second communication system (the CNRNC interface has been transferred from the old SRNC to the new SRNC and the new SRNC is responsible for *reconfiguring the network diversity legs* and

the old SRNC conveys the destination address and binding information required to reconfigure the network diversity legs) (col. 4 lines 15-65, col. 1 lines 28-37).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Jagadeensan to include forwarding all connections directly from the first communication system to the second system and entering at least a first connection of said plurality of connections into a holding state being directed by the second communication system. Motivation for this modification would have been to maintain control of the user equipment when the user moves about within the network.

Regarding claim 2, Jagadeesan discloses a method as claimed in claim 1. Rodriguez further discloses wherein the step of entering includes multiplexing all the connections with the handover connection (the DHO is capable of combining each of the network diversity legs into a single data stream for transport to the core network through the CN-RNC interface) (col. 4 lines 10-45).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Jagadeesan to include wherein the step of entering includes multiplexing all the connections with the handover connection. Motivation for this modification would have been to maintain control of the user equipment when the user moves about within the network.

Regarding claim 9, the combination discloses a method as claimed in claim 1. Jagadeensan further discloses further comprising notifying a user of the subscriber unit of which of the plurality of connections are in a holding state (the modality handoff signal may be performed by transmitting it to the remote device over the original leg (meaning placing the voice communication on hold)) (col. 7 line 35-45).

Regarding claim 10, the combination discloses a method as claimed in claim 1.

Jagadeensan further discloses wherein at least one of the plurality of connections is between the subscriber unit and a second cellular communication unit and further comprising notifying a user of the second cellular communication unit of which of the plurality of connections are in a holding state (the modality handoff signal may be performed by transmitting it to the remote device over the original leg (meaning placing the voice communication on hold)) (**col. 7 line 35-45**).

Regarding claim 11, the combination discloses a method as claimed in claim 9.

Jagadeensan further discloses wherein the notification is by means of a voice communication if at least one of the plurality of connections is a voice service connection (the voice channel is coupled with the original leg, the voice channel may be internal within a device and terminates in at least one of a speaker and a microphone) (**col. 7 lines 25-30**).

Regarding claim 18, the combination discloses method as claimed in claim 1.

Jagadeensan further discloses wherein the plurality of connections is circuit switched connections (according to an optional next box the original leg is coupled with a voice channel for transferring data it could be used over a circuit switched or packet switched network) (**col. 7 lines 25-35**).

Regarding claim 25, A apparatus for handing over a subscriber unit from a first cellular communication system supporting a plurality of connections of the subscriber unit to a second cellular communication system (having capability for supporting only one connection); the apparatus comprising:

means for entering at least a first connection of said plurality of connections into a holding state (the signal to begin handoff is transmitted over the original leg (first connection) and a telephone call is made to establish connection, it is obvious to one skilled in the art that this would pause the original transmissions) (**col. 7 lines 35-45**);

means for forming a handover connection to the subscriber unit through the second cellular communication system (a handoff call is made to the access address, the handoff call is made responsive to the receiving the address signal) (**col. 7 lines 55-65**);

means for handing over a second connection of said plurality of connections to the second cellular communication system by associating the second connection with said handover connection (the alternate leg of the telephone call connection is established from the handoff the alternate leg is coupled with the voice channel (a second connection)) (**col. 7 lines 60-67**);

means for entering said at least first connection into an active state by associating the at least first connection with the handover connection (data can be received from both the original leg and the alternate leg) (**col. 8 lines 10-19**).

means for entering said at least first connection into an active state by switching the at least first connection with the handover connection while placing the previously active second connection on hold (it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that this step can be performed if the previous step of “entering at least a first connection of said plurality of connections into a holding state” and “handing over the second connection by associating the second connection with said handover connection”, and thus this step of entering is just the reverse which is obvious during the operation of handing over).

Jagadeensan fails to disclose forwarding all connections directly from the first communication system to the second system and entering at least a first connection of said plurality of connections into a holding state being directed by the second communication system.

In a similar field of endeavor, Rodriguez discloses forwarding all connections directly from the first communication system to the second communication system and entering at least a first connection of said plurality of connections into a holding state being directed by the second communication system (the CNRNC interface has been transferred from the old SRNC to the new SRNC and the new SRNC is responsible for *reconfiguring the network diversity legs* and the old SRNC conveys the destination address and binding information required to reconfigure the network diversity legs) (**col. 4 lines 15-65, col. 1 lines 28-37**) and the holding state being directed by the second communication system (.

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Jagadeensan to include forwarding all connections directly from the first communication system to the second system and entering at least a first connection of said plurality of connections into a holding state being directed by the second communication system. Motivation for this modification would have been to maintain control of the user equipment when the user moves about within the network.

4. Claims 3-8, 12-14, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jagadeesan, **US Patent 7,003,298**, in view of Noguera-Rodriguez et al. (Rodriguez), **US Patent 6,687,249** in view of Tellinger et al. (Tellinger), **US Patent 6,792,273**.

Regarding claim 3, the combination of Jagadeesan and Rodriguez discloses a method as claimed in claim 1, but fails to disclose further comprising the step of selecting the second

connection from the plurality of connections in response to at least one characteristic of at least one of the plurality of connections.

In a similar field of endeavor, Tellingner discloses disclose further comprising the step of selecting the second connection from the plurality of connections in response to at least one characteristic of at least one of the plurality of connections (when a request is received at the communications controller on or more services are requested with that connection, such as a peak rate, bit rate, or delay, the resource handler determines and reserves those hardware and or software resources to needed to support the requested service) (**col. 7 lines 1-25, 35-50**).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the combination of Jagadeesan and Rodriguez to include disclose further comprising the step of selecting the second connection from the plurality of connections in response to at least one characteristic of at least one of the plurality of connections. Motivation for this modification would have been to know the dynamic connection parameters of the connection likely to be involved in supporting the connection.

Regarding claim 4, the combination of Jagadeesan and Rodriguez discloses a method as claimed in claim 3. Tellingner further discloses wherein the characteristic is related to an error rate a type of the second connection (when a request is received at the communications controller on or more services are requested with that connection, the resource handler reserves those hardware and software resources needed to support the requested service (the resources are reserved using static and dynamic parameters which include bit rate error)) (**col. 6 lines 40-50, col. 7 lines 1-25, 35-50**).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the combination to include disclose wherein the characteristic is related to an error rate a type of the second connection. Motivation for this modification would have been to know the dynamic connection parameters of the connection likely to be involved in supporting the connection.

Regarding claim 5, the combination discloses a method as claimed in claim 3. Tellinginger further discloses wherein the step of selecting comprises selecting a data service connection in preference to a voice service connection as the second connection (when a request is received at the communications controller on or more services are requested with that connection, the resource handler reserves those hardware and software resources needed to support the requested service (i.e. data)) (col. 7 lines 1-25, 35-50).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the combination to include discloses wherein the step of selecting comprises selecting a data service connection in preference to a voice service connection as the second connection. Motivation for this modification would have been to know the dynamic connection parameters of the connection likely to be involved in supporting the connection.

Regarding claim 6, the combination discloses a method as claimed in claim 3 wherein the at least one characteristic comprises at least one characteristic chosen from the group consisting of

- a) a priority;
- b) a transaction identifier; and
- c) a time of setup of at least one of the plurality of connections (when a request is received at the communications controller on or more services are requested with that

connection, the resource handler reserves those hardware and software resources needed to support the requested service (the resources are reserved using static and dynamic parameters which include a particular delay parameter)) (**col. 6 lines 40-50, col. 7 lines 1-25, 35-50**).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the combination to include a) a priority; b) a transaction identifier; and c) a time of setup of at least one of the plurality of connections. Motivation for this modification would have been to know the dynamic connection parameters of the connection likely to be involved in supporting the connection.

Regarding claim 7, the combination discloses a method as claimed in claim 1 but fails to disclose wherein the at least first connection is a data connection and the method comprises the further steps of:

storing data of the at least first connection in memory when the at least first connection is in the holding state; and

communicating the data stored in said memory when the at least first connection enters the active state.

In a similar field of endeavor, Tellingier discloses wherein the at least first connection is a data connection and the method comprises storing data of the at least first connection in memory when the at least first connection is in the holding state; and communicating the data stored in said memory when the at least first connection enters the active state (the DHO unit is assembled into radio frames that are split and sent to the base stations (connections) involved in the diversity handover, this process includes storing received radio frames from different soft

handover paths in input buffers and forwarding chosen radio frame data to the overlaying protocol layer) (**col. 6 lines 25-40**).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the combination to include storing data of the at least first connection in memory when the at least first connection is in the holding state; and communicating the data stored in said memory when the at least first connection enters the active state. Motivation for this modification would have been to know the dynamic connection parameters of the connection likely to be involved in supporting the connection.

Regarding claim 8, Jagadeensan discloses a method as claimed in claim 1 but fails to disclose wherein the at least first connection is a data connection and the method comprises the further steps of:

storing data of the at least first connection in memory when the at least first connection is in the holding state; and

the subscriber unit retrieving the stored data from the memory by setting up a separate data call.

In a similar field of endeavor, Tellingier discloses wherein the at least first connection is a data connection and the method comprises storing data of the at least first connection in memory when the at least first connection is in the holding state (the DHO unit is assembled into radio frames that are split and sent to the base stations (connections) involved in the diversity handover, this process includes storing received radio frames from different soft handover paths in input buffers and forwarding chosen radio frame data to the overlaying protocol layer) (**col. 6 lines 25-40**); and the subscriber unit retrieving the stored data from the memory by setting up a

separate data call (the resource handler then allocates for the mobile connection data (requested by the mobile station) processing and memory and/or other resources based on the determined station and parameters) (**col. 7 lines 1-25**).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Jagadeensan to include storing data of the at least first connection in memory when the at least first connection is in the holding state; and the subscriber unit retrieving the stored data from the memory by setting up a separate data call. Motivation for this modification would have been to know the dynamic connection parameters of the connection likely to be involved in supporting the connection.

Regarding claim 12, the combination discloses a method as claimed in claim 1 but fails to disclose further comprising the step of selecting the second connection in response to a parameter set by an operator of at least one of the first or second cellular communication systems.

In a similar field of endeavor, Tellingier discloses further comprising the step of selecting the second connection in response to a parameter set by an operator of at least one of the first or second cellular communication systems (when a request is received at the communications controller on or more services are requested with that connection, such as a peak rate, bit rate, or delay, the resource handler determines and reserves those hardware and or software resources to needed to support the requested service) (**col. 7 lines 1-25, 35-50**).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the combination to include disclose further comprising selecting the second connection in response to a parameter set by an operator of at least one of the first or second cellular

communication systems. Motivation for this modification would have been to know the dynamic connection parameters of the connection likely to be involved in supporting the connection.

Regarding claim 13, the combination discloses a method as claimed in claim 1 but fails to disclose further comprising selecting the second connection in response to a parameter set by a user of the subscriber unit.

In a similar field of endeavor, Tellingier discloses further comprising selecting the second connection in response to a parameter set by a user of the subscriber unit (when a request is received at the communications controller on or more services are requested with that connection, such as a peak rate, bit rate, or delay, the resource handler determines and reserves those hardware and or software resources to needed to support the requested service) (**col. 7 lines 1-25, 35-50**).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the combination to include disclose further comprising selecting the second connection in response to a parameter set by a user of the subscriber unit. Motivation for this modification would have been to know the dynamic connection parameters of the connection likely to be involved in supporting the connection.

Regarding claim 14, the combination discloses a method as claimed in claim 1 but fails to disclose wherein if the handover to the second cellular communication system is unsuccessful at least one of the plurality of connections is re-established through the first cellular communication system.

In a similar field of endeavor, Tellingier discloses further comprising wherein if the handover to the second cellular communication system is unsuccessful at least one of the

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plurality of connections is re-established through the first cellular communication system (when a request is received at the communications controller on or more services are requested with that connection, such as a peak rate, bit rate, or delay, the resource handler determines and reserves those hardware and or software resources to needed to support the requested service) (col. 7 lines 1-25, 35-50).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the combination to include disclose further comprising wherein if the handover to the second cellular communication system is unsuccessful at least one of the plurality of connections is re-established through the first cellular communication system. Motivation for this modification would have been to know the dynamic connection parameters of the connection likely to be involved in supporting the connection.

Regarding claim 23, the combination discloses a method as claimed in claim 22. Rodriguez further discloses wherein the first communication system maintains control of the connection in the second communication system following a handover (the CN-RNC interface has been transferred from the old SRNC to the new SRNC and the CN that was controlling the connection with the old SRNC is still controlling the connection after the interface has been transferred to the new SRNC) (col. 4 lines 15-45 and figures 2 and 3).

5. Claims 16,17, 19-22 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jagadeesan, US Patent 7,003,298, in view of Noguera-Rodriguez et al. (Rodriguez), US Patent 6,687,249, in view of Parmar et al. (Parmar), US Patent 6,725,039.

Regarding claim 16, the combination discloses a method as claimed in claim 1, but fails to disclose wherein the method is operated in a single integrated master switch centre for the first cellular communication system and the second cellular communication system.

In a similar field of endeavor, Parmar discloses wherein the method is operated in a single integrated master switch centre for the first cellular communication system and the second cellular communication system (provides a method of processing a handover request from a base station controller of a GSM network, the method comprising passing a handover request with GSM parameters from a base station controller through a master switching centre to a UMTS core network) (col. 1 lines 40-50).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the combination to include wherein the method is operated in a single integrated master switch centre for the first cellular communication system and the second cellular communication system. Motivation for this modification would have been to provide a method that can applicable to one or more networks.

Regarding claim 17, the combination discloses a method as claimed in claim 1 but fails to disclose wherein the second cellular communication system is operable to only support one connection for each served subscriber unit.

In a similar field of endeavor, Parmar discloses wherein the second cellular communication system is operable to only support one connection for each served subscriber unit (potential links supplied in a list to the UE on satisfactory communication is not possible are deleted from the list of available links of performing soft handover from a GSM network to a

UMTS network comprising supplying a list of potential access nodes to user equipment) (**col. 2 lines60-67 and col. 3 lines 1-5**).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the combination to include wherein the second cellular communication system is operable to only support one connection for each served subscriber unit. Motivation for this modification would have been to provide a method that can applicable to one or more networks.

Regarding claim 19, the combination disclose a method as claimed in claim 1, but fails to disclose wherein the second cellular communication system is a Second Generation Cellular Communication System.

In a similar field of endeavor, Parmar discloses wherein the second cellular communication system is a Second Generation Cellular Communication System (potential links supplied in a list to the UE on satisfactory communication is not possible are deleted from the list of available links of performing soft handover from a GSM network to a UMTS network comprising supplying a list of potential access nodes to user equipment) (**col. 2 lines60-67 and col. 3 lines 1-5**).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the combination to include wherein the second cellular communication system is a Second Generation Cellular Communication System. Motivation for this modification would have been to provide a method that can applicable to one or more networks.

Regarding claim 20, the combination discloses a method as claimed in claim 19. Parmar further discloses wherein the second cellular communication system is a Global System for Mobile communication (GSM) cellular communication system (potential links supplied in a list

to the UE on satisfactory communication is not possible are deleted from the list of available links of performing soft handover from a GSM network to a UMTS network comprising supplying a list of potential access nodes to user equipment) (**col. 2 lines60-67 and col. 3 lines 1-5**).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the combination to include wherein the second cellular communication system is a Global System for Mobile communication (GSM) cellular communication system. Motivation for this modification would have been to provide a method that can applicable to one or more networks.

Regarding claim 21, the combination discloses a method as claimed in claim 1, but fails to disclose wherein the first cellular communication system is a Third Generation Cellular Communication System.

In a similar field of endeavor, Parmar discloses wherein the first cellular communication system is a Third Generation Cellular Communication System (potential links supplied in a list to the UE on satisfactory communication is not possible are deleted from the list of available links of performing soft handover from a GSM network to a UMTS network comprising supplying a list of potential access nodes to user equipment) (**col. 2 lines60-67 and col. 3 lines 1-5**).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the combination to include wherein the first cellular communication system is a Third Generation Cellular Communication System. Motivation for this modification would have been to provide a method that can applicable to one or more networks.

Regarding claim 22, the combination discloses a method as claimed in claim 21. Parmar further discloses wherein the first cellular communication system is a Universal Mobile Telecommunication System (UMTS) (potential links supplied in a list to the UE on satisfactory communication is not possible are deleted from the list of available links of performing soft handover from a GSM network to a UMTS network comprising supplying a list of potential access nodes to user equipment) (**col. 2 lines 60-67 and col. 3 lines 1-5**).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the combination to include wherein the first cellular communication system is a Universal Mobile Telecommunication System (UMTS). Motivation for this modification would have been to provide a method that can applicable to one or more networks.

Regarding claim 24, the combination discloses a method as claimed in claim 22. Parmer further discloses wherein step of entering said at least first connection into an active state is performed in accordance with the 3.sup.rd Generation Partnership Project (3G PP) Technical Specification 24.083 (it is known in the art that that is a standard when using 3GPP).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the combination to include wherein entering said at least first connection into an active state is performed in accordance with the 3.sup.rd Generation Partnership Project (3G PP) Technical Specification 24.083. Motivation for this modification would have been to provide a method that can applicable to one or more networks.

6. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jagadeesan, **US Patent 7,003,298**, in view of Noguera-Rodriguez et al. (Rodriguez), **US Patent 6,687,249**, in view of Bedingfield, SR. et al. (Bedingfield), **US Patent 5,850,606**.

Regarding claim 15, the combination discloses a method as claimed in claim 1 but fails to disclose wherein the second cellular communication system comprises a master switch center comprising functionality for selecting the second connection out of the plurality of connections.

In a similar field of endeavor, Bedingfield discloses wherein the second cellular communication system comprises a master switch center-comprising functionality for selecting the second connection out of the plurality of connections (after connection is established in the handover old connection is released to be available for future use in association with future calls (it is obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that this connection can be associated with the handover connection)) (col. 11 lines35-46).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the combination to include discloses wherein the second cellular communication system comprises a master switch center comprising functionality for selecting the second connection out of the plurality of connections. Motivation for this modification would have been to provide a method that can applicable to one or more networks or a group of units.

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period


will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Celeste L. Loftin whose telephone number is 571-272-2842. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday 8am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Feild can be reached on 571-272-4090. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

CL


JOSEPH FEILD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER